



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/943,150 Confirmation No. 8646

Applicant : Daniel P. DeLuca et al.

Filed : August 30, 2001

TC/A.U. : 1742

Examiner : Harry D. Wilkins III

Docket No. : F-7804(01-415)

Customer No. : 52237

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed April 18, 2005, setting a three (3) month shortened statutory period for response which expired on July 18, 2005, and which has been extended one month to August 18, 2005, amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

An **Appendix** containing a photomicrograph begins on page 13 of this paper.

08/24/2005 JBALINAN 00000079 210279 09943150

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